



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 11, 2019

Ms. Nneka Kanu
Assistant City Attorney
City of Houston
P.O. Box 368
Houston, Texas 77001-0368

OR2019-00910

Dear Ms. Kanu:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 745657 (GC No. 25573).

The City of Houston (the "city") received a request for bid documentation for two specified city solicitations and details of a specified bid. The city has released some information to the requestor. Although you take no position as to whether the information is excepted from disclosure under the Act, you state release of portions of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Galls, LLC ("Galls"). Accordingly, the city states, and provides documentation showing, it notified Galls of the request for information and of its right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d); see also Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances).* We have reviewed the submitted information.

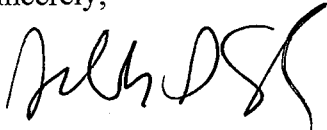
Initially, we note an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B).* As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from Galls explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude Galls has a protected proprietary interest in the

submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110; Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the city may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest Galls may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the submitted information must be released.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Deborah Southerland
Attorney
Open Records Division

DS/eb

Ref: ID# 745657

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party
(w/o enclosures)